to ensure collection/disposal of mercury and mercury bearing wastes from the healthcare facilities as per the Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended in 2003.

Smuggling of timber in North-Eastern States

†3925. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the smuggling of timber in a huge quantity from the North-Eastern States has been going on;

(b) if so, the details of the seized timber during the last three years, and

(c) the details of the revenue earned from the timber year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details of Timber seized in the North-Eastern-States and Revenue earned during the period 2001-02 to 2003-04 are as under:—

Year	Volume of timber seized (in cum.)	Revenue earned (Rs. in lakh)
2001-02	13881.3961	269.089
2002-03	12740.344	306.38
2003-04	10322.8335	309.836

Melting of Himalayan Glaciers

3926. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the global warming is seriously threatening the Himalayan Glaciers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Indian Space Scientists have gathered a concrete evidence which shows that four glaciers in Baspa basin are on the verge of disappearance;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether according to some scientists 15 more glaciers in the same basin are also facing extinction; and

(d) if so, the measures that Government are taking to save these glaciers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Change in the size of glaciers is a cyclic process observed all over the wold. The studies carried out by Geological Survey of India have revealed that the majority of Himalayan glaciers are passing through a phase of recession, which could be attributed to various reasons including global warming.

(b) and (c) According to Department of Space, Indian Space Scientists have monitored glaciers in the Baspa basin using data of Indian Remote Sensing Satellites. The retreat of snow line on glaciers was monitored using weekly satellite data during 2000 to 2002 and 2004. It was observed that the snow line at the end of summer season was higher than maximum glacial altitude for four glaciers. For remaining 15 glaciers, snow line at the end of summer season was lower than maximum glacial altitude.

(d) In order to develop proper understanding of glaciers, the Government has commissioned a few studies including a comprehensive programme on the inventory of glaciers, fluctuation in their sizes and mass balance.

TV Mumbai (Middle-Vaitarana) water supply project

3927. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since approved the Maharashtra Government proposal for environmental clearance of TV Mumbai (Middle-Vaitarana) water supply project;

(b) whether the World Bank has indicated willingness to provide assistance for this project, if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the original estimated cost of the project as per original report of the Tata Consulting Engineers of 1992 and the cost escalation suffered thereby, so far?